



KENT SCHOOL

June 12, 2014

Elizabeth Appel, Director
Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 4141-MIB Washington,
D.C. 20240

**Re: Docket ID: BIA-2013-0007, RIN 1076-AF18
Request for Extension of Comment Period by the Kent School**

Dear Ms. Appel:

Kent School hereby requests a 60-day extension of the comment period for BIA's proposed rule amending 25 C.F.R. Part 83 concerning tribal acknowledgement published on May 29, 2014. See Federal Acknowledgment of American Indian Tribes, 79 Fed. Reg. 30766 (May 29, 2014) (to be codified at 25 C.F.R. pt. 83). The proposed changes to 25 C.F.R. Part 83 would result in dramatic consequences for our School and the State of Connecticut. The proposed rules are very complex and require a detailed analysis of the potential impacts on both past and pending tribal acknowledgment petitions. Kent School submitted detailed comments on the discussion draft of these proposed rules, but the May 29 version is very different than the initial proposal and considerable additional information and analysis is needed. The current comment period is not sufficient for that purpose.

In addition, despite the clear effect of the proposal on previously denied and potential future tribal acknowledgment decisions in Connecticut, no public meeting has been scheduled in Connecticut. Because the proposed rules retain the state reservation provision as grounds for federal acknowledgment, despite many comments explaining why it should be removed, Connecticut is clearly subject to very unique consequences. It is therefore essential for the Department of the Interior to hold a public meeting in Connecticut. The Kent School respectfully requests that such a forum be scheduled within the extended comment period.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Richardson W. Schell
Headmaster & Rector

cc: Kent School Board of Trustees
Kent School Alumni Association
Senator Richard Blumenthal